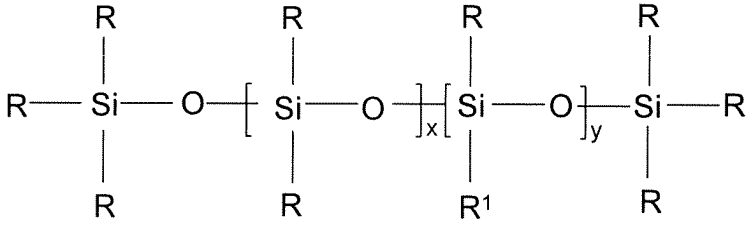
REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 50, 52-79, and 82-84, including independent claims 50, 64, and 80, are pending in the present application. Independent claim 50, for instance, is directed to a melt extrudable composition comprising one or more elastomeric styrenic block copolymers that include styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene-ethylene/propylene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene-ethylene/butylene, or a combination thereof. The elastomeric polymers constitute about 50 wt.% or more of the composition. The composition also comprises one or more polyorganosiloxanes having the following formula:



wherein,

R is an alkyl radical;

R^1 is a monovalent organic radical comprising an ethylene oxide group, vicinal epoxy group, or amino group; and

x and y are independently selected from the group consisting of positive integers.

In the Office Action, claim 60 was rejected under *35 U.S.C. § 112*, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Without commenting on the propriety of this rejection,

Applicants submit that claim 60, as amended, satisfies the requirements of *§ 112*, second paragraph. Further, independent claims 50 and 64 were also rejected in the Office Action under *35 U.S.C. § 112,* first paragraph, as not being enabling for "any" styrenic triblock copolymer, styrenic copolymer, or combinations thereof. Although Applicants disagree, independent claims 50 and 64 have nevertheless been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to require that the styrenic block copolymer includes styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene-ethylene/propylene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene-ethylene/butylene, or a combination thereof. Applicants respectfully submit that such claims fully satisfy the requirements of *35 U.S.C. § 112,* first paragraph.

In the Office Action, independent claims 50 and 64 were also rejected under *35 U.S.C. §102(b)* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,413,655 to Nohr, et al. Nohr, et al. is directed to a composition used to prepare nonwoven webs with either improved tensile strength characteristics or long-term hydrophilicity or wettability. More specifically, the composition contains a "first component" that is a polysiloxane polyether and a "second component" that is fumed silica. (Col. 6-8). Nohr, et al. indicates that the nonwoven web may be formed from a "thermoplastic polyolefin" and provides sixteen (16) different examples of thermoplastic polyolefins, including polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, and the like. (Col. 6, ll. 31-54). Notably, none of these sixteen (16) examples disclose the elastomeric styrenic triblock and/or tetrablock copolymers as required by independent claims 50 and 64. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims patentably define over Nohr, et al.

The Office Action also rejected independent claims 50 and 64 under *35 U.S.C. § 102* in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,067,592 to Chino. Chino is directed to a thermoplastic elastomer having a carbonyl-containing group and a nitrogen-containing group on the side chain, wherein the nitrogen-containing group is bonded to a main chain through an organic group. The elastomer is also blended with an amino-group containing compound, such as a polysiloxane having an amino group. Despite the assertions set forth in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that Chino fails to disclose certain aspect of independent claims 50 and 64.

Independent claims 50 and 64, for instance, require a styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene, styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene-ethylene/propylene, and/or a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene-ethylene/butylene block copolymer. Such block copolymers do not have a side chain that contains a nitrogen-containing ring as expressly required by Chino. In fact, the only mention in Chino of the type of block copolymers required by claims 50 and 64 is in a laundry list of numerous possible polymers for use as a "raw material" for reacting with a nitrogen-containing heterocycle to form the thermoplastic elastomer. (*See e.g.*, Col. 14, ll. 4-8 and Col. 12). For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Chino does not anticipate independent claims 50 and 64.

In any event, Applicants emphasize that Chino completely fails to recognize the benefits achieved by combining the claimed elastomeric styrenic triblock and/or tetrablock copolymers with the polyorganosiloxane. Among other things, the claimed polyorganosiloxane has been discovered to lower the extrusion temperature of elastomeric styrenic block copolymers to aid in the extrusion process. (*See e.g.*, Appl.

p. 3, ll. 10-14). Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims patentably define over Chino.

Applicants also submit that the dependent claims patentably define over the cited references for at least the reasons noted above. Nevertheless, the patentability of these claims does not hinge on the patentability of independent claims 50 and 64. For example, dependent claim 76 requires that the extruded composition is in the form of "continuous filaments" and dependent claims 77-79 requires that such filaments are laminated to one or more sheet materials, such as a spunbond web. Even the Examiner conceded that such features are nowhere disclosed or suggested by certain of the cited references, such as Chino.

It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, is therefore requested. Examiner Peng is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully requested,

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